

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BERN 00206 151703Z

43

ACTION EA-10

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RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAJ-01 L-02 /070 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 100

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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S E C R E T BERN 0206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, VS, SV, UN

SUBJECT: PRG LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA

REF: BERN 0195

1. DCM CALLED IN BY KELLER AGAIN NOON JAN 15, WHO STATED COMMUNIQUE NOT YET AVAILABLE AND WE WOULD GET IT LATER. (REFTEL). HE RECITED MAIN ELEMENTS WHOLE HISTORY OF EFFORT ESTABLISH PRG LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA.

2. STEPS WERE QUITE CLEAR. MADAME BINH SENT NOTE TO UN SECRETARIAT EARLY IN FALL REQUESTING THAT UN SECRETARIAT (READ WALDHEIM) AGREE TO OPENING AN OFFICE IN GENEVA FOR CONTACTS WITH HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS. WINSPEARE THEN CONTACTED KELLER TO ASK IF SWISS WOULD EXTEND "FACILITIES" FOR A LIAISON OFFICE WITH UN ORGANIZATIONS GENEVA.

3. KELLER SAID SWISS ORAL REPLY WAS THEY HAD NO RELATIONS, OR NO INTENTIONS TO HAVE RELATIONS, WITH PRG, BUT IF UN FAVORABLE TO REQUEST FOR "HUMANITARIAN CONTACTS," AND IF UN DEEMED IT FIT, SWISS WOULD NOT HINDER ESTABLISHMENT RESTRICTED LIAISON OFFICE TO UN ORGANS GENEVA. AT THAT TIME, KELLER SAID, HE MADE CLEAR THAT SWISS WOULD FACILITATE NARROWLY DEFINED LEGITIMATE ACTIVITIES OF A LIAISON OFFICE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BERN 00206 151703Z

IF UN WANTED IT. AT THE TIME, SWISS HAD THOUGHT THE WHOLE

MATTER WAS GOING TO BE "PLAIN SAILING."

4. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, KELLER, TOGETHER WITH SWISS UN OBSERVER MARQUARD AND PICTET, PAID VISIT NOVEMBER 21 TO WALDHEIM IN NEW YORK WHO SAID HE HAD MENTIONED POSSIBLE LIAISON OFFICE PRG TO SECRETARY KISSINGER, WHO HAD EXPRESSED NO OBJECTION.

5. KELLER SAID, AS SWISS LOOK AT OFFICES ACCREDITED TO UN GENEVA, IT IS NOT UP TO THEM TO DECIDE WHY THESE ORGANIZATIONS COME INTO EXISTENCE BUT THEY DO THEIR BEST TO FACILITATE UN REQUESTS FOR OFFICES TO BE ACCREDITED TO THE UN IN GENEVA. IN SWISS VIEW, IT IS OBVIOUS LOGICALLY THAT FROM VERY BEGINNING UN "ASKED" OR "REQUESTED" OR "AUTHORIZED" ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIAISON OFFICE BY PRG. THEY CANNOT IMAGINE HOW ANY REASONING COULD BE DIFFERENT AND THEY RESENT WALDHEIM'S POSTURE THAT THE UN HAD NOT "REQUESTED" PRG LIAISON OFFICE.

6. KELLER SAID OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH SWISS DECEMBER 18 NOTE WHICH IN ROUGH TRANSLATION READS AS FOLLOWS:
"IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT WAS AGREED IN PRELIMINARY CONTACTS BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (READ AMBASSADOR KELLER) AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UN OFFICE IN GENEVA (READ WINSPEARE) THE SWISS AUTHORITIES ARE PREPARED, PROVIDED THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECIDES TO AUTHORIZE THE OPENING OF A LIAISON OFFICE TO DEAL WITH THE UN OFFICES IN GENEVA ON HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS, TO GRANT TO THIS OFFICE BY COURTESY AND ON AN AD HOC BASIS CERTAIN FACILITIES IN ORDER TO ALLOW THIS OFFICE AND ITS MEMBERS TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR TASKS."

7. KELLER SAID JANUARY 10 NOTE FROM UN SECRETARIAT GENEVA STATED THAT "DIRECTOR GENERAL DESIGNATES THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS TO BE PART OF THE OFFICE OF LIAISON TO CARRY OUT HUMANITARIAN TASKS, ACCREDITED TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS." HE SAID THE SWISS TEXT OF JANUARY 14 STATED IN THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH THAT "THE FACILITIES IN QUESTION WHICH ARE BEING GRANTED MEAN TO THE SWISS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BERN 00206 151703Z

AUTHORITIES THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS GIVEN HIS AGREEMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS OFFICE." HAD SEC'Y GEN'L TAKEN CONTRARY VIEW, SWISS THINK EVEN AT THAT LATE DATE, HE SHOULD HAVE EXPRESSED IT.

8. KELLER WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT IF THE UN IN GENEVA AND NEW YORK HAD NOT RAISED THE WHOLE SUBJECT OF A LIAISON OFFICE IN AN OFFICIAL WAY, NOTHING WOULD EVER

HAVE BEEN GRANTED BY THE SWISS AUTHORITIES BECAUSE OFFICIALLY THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN ANYTHING ABOUT IT. QUITE OBVIOUSLY, HE SAID, WHATEVER WALDHEIM MAY AVER, THE UN, THROUGH ITS NOTES TO THE SWISS, ASKED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRG LIAISON OFFICE, AND THE SWISS ACCEDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH USUAL PRACTICE TO A UN REQUEST. LOGICALLY, WHATEVER WALDHEIM AND WINSPEARE MAY SAY, THEY "ASKED," AND THE SWISS MET THEIR REQUEST, AS THEY HAVE ACCEDED TO UN REQUESTS IN THE PAST, BUT ON A VERY LIMITED BASIS. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY SWISS GOVERNMENT MAKES IT COMPLETELY CLEAR THAT UN "REQUESTED" ESTABLISHMENT PRG LIAISON OFFICE AND IT ALSO CLEAR THAT SWISS HAVE NO INTENTION ALLOWING WALDHEIM TO CLAIM HE DID NOT ASK FOR IT.

9. KELLER INDICATED THAT IF WALDHEIM DISPUTES SWISS VIEW, SWISS MAY EVEN BE IMPELLED PUBLISH EXCHANGE OF NOTES.
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